

Distinguished participants ladies and gentlemen:

It is indeed an honor and a privilege for me to be able to give brief closing remarks in this crucially important national dialogue on sustainable agricultural intensification and its role on the climate resilient green economy in Ethiopia

During the last two days, we have been able to see the interconnection of agriculture, water, forests and food security and also seen the logic and justification for the need to emphasize on integration we have gone through what we mean with sustainable agricultural intensification, what the forest policies and strategies in Ethiopia look like and its gaps that exist.

In this important workshop we also saw the importance of biodiversity and contributions of traditional agroforestry to agricultural intensification

Through this crucially important workshop we have been able to see the genesis of climate resilience highland transformation in Ethiopia. The importance of natural resource protection and development has been underlined. Finally we also saw through a very clearly presented account of the sustainable agricultural intensification in the Ethiopian highlands.

Most importantly and as part of the solution to the various problems that we have been detailing out in the different themes of the dialogue the idea of building our common platform (the national land and water platform) has been stressed.

We have now been able to share available information on the important themes of the dialogue and I must say the dialogue was extremely successful in conducting such a resourceful dialogue. The dialogue has as well helped very much to identify the gaps in each one of the themes. Most gaps look like to converge in many aspects.

The most important of these being plausibility and availability of data and the issue of honorship in some national programs.

The solution ahead has been expressed to be working in a united front. The logic behind the understandable agriculture, water, forests and forest security are interconnected thus justifying harmonization and working together In an integrated manner.

We have seen in the presentations and discussions that followed that our institutional linkages are weak thus justifying to work through the platforms.

The platform will:

- Stimulate sharing and learning like this dialogue
- Guide evidence based on policy formation
- Enhance effective coordination
- Address institutional and policy constraints
- Build institutional capacity
- Will enable scaling up and scaling out of best practices

Through strategies of participatory decision making learning and documentation. As you are aware the structure of our platform (national land and water platform) has been put in place at national level with a national steering committees. Thematic working groups have been formed and are undergoing their tasks.

My plea to all of you today is for all our institutions to contribute their share in the strengthening and smooth working of the platform for the cause of successful contribution of the platform to security and alleviation of poverty in Ethiopia.

Let me also take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation and sincere gratitude to NBDC. Its outstanding contributions for the establishment, development and sustenance of the national land and water platform and its thematic working groups is commendable.

Our sincere appreciations also go to ILRI and IWMI for their fruitful collaboration. Last but not least I would like to thank those who collaborated in giving presentations for the dialogue and all of you participants who gave your time and energy to this important dialogue and I declare the dialogue closed.

Thank you

Adane Kassa

Director, Water Action